A2 cont'd

a fourth birefringent wedge having an optic axis 45° apart from the third birefringent wedge and a fourth wedge angle; and

a second Faraday rotator disposed between said third and fourth wedges for rotating a polarization plane by 45°.

A3

9. (Amended) The optical isolator of claim 8, wherein said first stage comprises:

a first birefringent wedge having an optic axis and a first wedge angle;

a second birefringent wedge having an optic axis 45° apart from said first birefringent wedge and a second wedge angle; and

a first Faraday rotator disposed between said first and second wedges having a polarization plane rotation of 45°.

A4

11. (Amended) The optical isolator of claim 10, wherein said first Faraday rotator is configured to rotate the polarization of applied light by 45°.

12. (Amended) The optical isolator of claim 9, wherein said second stage comprises:

a third birefringent wedge having an optic axis 90° apart from said second birefringent wedge and a third wedge angle;

a fourth birefringent wedge having an optic axis 45° apart from said third birefringent wedge and a fourth wedge angle; and

a second Faraday rotator disposed between said third and fourth wedges having polarization plane rotating angle of 45°.

13. (Amended) The optical isolator of claim 12, wherein said second Faraday rotator is configured to rotate the polarization of applied light by 45°.

14. (Amended) The optical isolator of claim 13, wherein a rotation direction of said first and second Faraday rotators is at least one of a same and opposite direction.